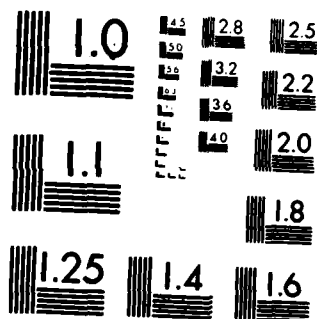


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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A DREDGE SPOIL DISPOSAL SITE 1/1
IN HASTINGS MINNESOTA LOCK & DAM NUMBER 3(U) CORPS OF
ENGINEERS ST PAUL MN ST PAUL DISTRICT P H SALKIN 1980
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LOCK & DAM 3
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A
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HASTINGS, MINNESOTA

1980

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PHILIP H. SALKIN
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

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<p>The author conducted an archaeological survey of a proposed dredge spoil dumping site in Hastings, Minnesota, near the confluence of the Mississippi River and Lake St. Croix. Because no archaeological materials were recovered in the twelve test units, and because no previously recorded sites have been found in the project area, the author does not believe that the proposed project will have an adverse effect on the cultural resources of the area.</p>					
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On 25 July, the author conducted an archaeological survey of a proposed dredge spoil dumping site in Hastings, Minnesota. The proposed project area lies in the SE 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 9, of Oak Grove Township, T26N, R20W, Washington County, Minnesota (see Map #1).

The project entails the deposition of dredge spoil over an approximately 200 by 50 meter area. This area is a peninsula immediately to the west of the U.S. 10 bridge crossing Lake St. Croix at Prescott, Wisconsin and is on the north side of the highway. The project area is near the confluence of the Mississippi River and Lake St. Croix. To the north and east of the project area is Lake St. Croix, to the south is the Mississippi River, and to the west are several abandoned buildings and a public beach.

The project area is covered on its western portion by high grasses and brush. To the east, the area slopes downhill several feet and is covered by well-spaced hardwoods with little understory. The soils are primarily alluvial sands and these are wet, especially those in the eastern margin of the project area.

Previous Archaeological Work

No recorded archaeological sites lie in the project area. A number of both historic and prehistoric sites have been found to the west in the city of Hastings. Here, the elevations are higher and the area less marshy.

The Survey

Because conditions for surface observation of potential archaeological resources were poor, shovel testing was required. Test units were excavated approximately every 20 meters. The last few meters of the project area were not tested due to almost inundated conditions. Careful note was taken of the existing soil horizons.

The test units excavated in the western and higher 50 to 60 meters of the project area yielded soil profiles with 12 to 27 cm of recent alluvial sand deposit. This covered a horizon of dark soil with a higher clay and organic content, and included many medium-sized (10 to 20 cm long) rocks. (See Appendix #1, Units 1-6.) This horizon may reflect a period when there was less flooding and a more stable soil horizon could develop. Below this was light brown sand. No archaeological materials were recovered.

The test units located in the lower, wetter eastern portion of the project area generally had 7 to 39 cm of sand, sometimes with a small amount of clay or organic material, overlying a gleyed sand horizon. (See Appendix #1, Units 7-12.) Groundwater was reached in most of the units between 45 and 77 cm deep. No archaeological materials were recovered.

Recommendations

Because no archaeological materials were recovered in the twelve test units, and because no previously recorded sites have been found in the project area, the author does not believe that the proposed project will have an adverse effect on the cultural resources of the area.

Curation

No archaeological materials were recovered during the course of the survey. Field notes are being curated by the author at the U.S. Army Corps Office in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Handwritten notes and a table on a document fragment.

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Test Unit #7

Size: 50x50 cm

Soil Profile: 0-23 cm deep - brown sand with some clay
23-81 cm+ deep - light brown sand - very moist
groundwater at 76 cm deep

Test Unit #8

Size: 50x50 cm

Soil Profile: 0-14 cm deep - brown sand with some clay
14-48 cm deep - gleyed sand
48-65 cm+ deep - light brown sand

Test Unit #9

Size: 55x50 cm

Soil Profile: 0-7 cm deep - light brown sand with some organic stains
7-83 cm+ deep - gleyed sand
groundwater at 77 cm deep

Test Unit #10

Size: 50x50 cm

Soil Profile: 0-39 cm deep - light brown sand
39-46 cm+ deep - gleyed sand

Test Unit #11

Size: 60x50 cm

Soil Profile: 0-35 cm deep - light brown sand
35-45 cm+ deep - gleyed sand
groundwater at 45 cm deep

Test Unit #12

Size: 50x50 cm

Soil Profile: very wet sand, gleying may begin approximately 40 cm deep
groundwater at 56 cm deep

Appendix #1 - Summary of Test Units

Test Unit #1

Size: 60x50 cm

Soil Profile: 0-24 cm deep - light brown sand
24-37 cm deep - dark horizon with higher clay and
organic content and many medium-sized rocks
37-50 cm+ deep - light brown sand

Test Unit #2

Size: 50x45 cm

Soil Profile: 0-17 cm deep - sand with some organic material
17-33 cm deep - light brown sand with pebbles
33-46 cm+ deep - darker sand with pebbles

Test Unit #3

Size: 50x50 cm

Soil Profile: 0-27 cm deep - light brown sand
27-33 cm deep - dark horizon with higher clay and organic
content and many medium-sized rocks
33-78 cm+ deep - light brown sand

Test Unit #4

Size: 55x50 cm

Soil Profile: 0-27 cm deep - light brown sand
27-35 cm deep - dark horizon with higher clay and organic
content and many medium-sized rocks
35-59 cm+ deep - light brown sand

Test Unit #5

Size: 55x50 cm

Soil Profile: 0-15 cm deep - light brown sand
15-33 cm deep - dark horizon with higher clay and organic
content and many medium-sized rocks
33-65 cm+ deep - light brown sand

Test Unit #6

Size: 55x55 cm

Soil Profile: 0-12 cm deep - light brown sand
12-62 cm deep - dark horizon with higher clay and organic
content and many medium-sized rocks
62-66 cm+ deep - light brown sand

END

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